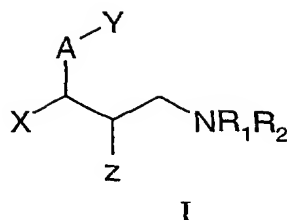


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Claims

1. A compound of formula I:



5 wherein

A is selected from O and S;

X is selected from

- 10 phenyl optionally substituted with up to 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl and C₁-C₄ alkoxy;
 thienyl optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents each independently selected from halo and C₁-C₄ alkyl; and
 C₂-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₈ alkenyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl and C₄-C₈ cycloalkylalkyl, each of which
 15 may be optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2, -CF₃, -CN and -CONH₂;

Y is selected from dihydrobenzothienyl, benzothiazolyl, benzoisothiazolyl, quinolyl,
 20 isoquinolyl, naphthyridyl, and thienopyridyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with up to 4 or, where possible, up to 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2, nitro, acetyl, -CF₃, -SCF₃ and cyano;

- 25 Z is selected from H, OR₃ or F, wherein R₃ is selected from H, C₁-C₆ alkyl and phenyl C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R₁ and R₂ are each independently H or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

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or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

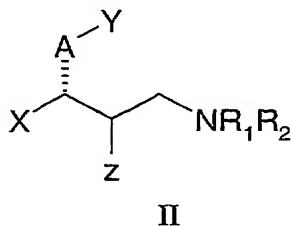
2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is O.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is S.

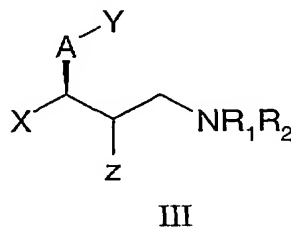
4. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is H.

5. A compounds as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is H and the other is methyl.

6. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound possesses the stereochemistry defined in formula II



7. A compound as claimed in claim 6, wherein the compound possesses the stereochemistry defined in formula III



8. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein Z is H.

9. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein

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X is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl which is mono-, di- or tri-substituted with substituents independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl and C₁-C₄ alkoxy.

10. A compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein X is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl
5 which is mono-substituted with fluorine.

11. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein Y is dihydrobenzothienyl optionally substituted with up to 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2,
10 nitro, acetyl, -CF₃, -SCF₃ and cyano.

12. A compound as claimed in claim 11, wherein Y is unsubstituted dihydrobenzothienyl or dihydrobenzothienyl which is mono-substituted with fluorine.

13. A compound as claimed in any one of the claims 1-10, wherein Y is benzothiazolyl or benzoisothiazolyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with up to 4 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2, nitro, acetyl, -CF₃, -SCF₃ and cyano.

14. A compound as claimed in claim 13, wherein Y is unsubstituted benzothiazolyl, unsubstituted benzoisothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl which is mono-substituted with CH₃ or benzoisothiazolyl which is mono-substituted with CH₃.

15. A compound as claimed in any one of the claims 1-10, wherein Y is thienopyridyl optionally substituted with up to 4 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2, nitro, acetyl, -CF₃, -SCF₃ and cyano.

16. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 11-15, wherein the point of attachment of the group Y to the O or S atom is attachment at the 7 position.

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17. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 11-15, wherein the point of attachment of the group Y to the O or S atom is attachment at the 4 position.

18. A compound as claimed in any one of the claims 1-10, wherein Y is quinolyl, isoquinolyl or naphthyridyl, each of which may be optionally substituted with up to 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₄ alkyl-S(O)_n- where n is 0, 1 or 2, nitro, acetyl, -CF₃, -SCF₃ and cyano.

19. A compound as claimed in claim 18, wherein the point of attachment of the group Y to the O or S atom is attachment at the 4 position.

20. A compound as claimed in claim 18, wherein the point of attachment of the group Y to the O or S atom is attachment at the 5 position.

21. A compound as claimed in claim 18, wherein the point of attachment of the group Y to the O or S atom is attachment at the 6 position.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

23. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for use as a pharmaceutical.

24. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for use as a selective inhibitor of the reuptake of both serotonin and norepinephrine.

25. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for use in the treatment of a disorder associated with serotonin and norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

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26. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for use in the treatment of a disorder selected from selected from depression, OCD, anxiety, memory loss, urinary incontinence, conduct disorders, ADHD, obesity, alcoholism, smoking cessation, hot flushes/flushes and pain.

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27. The use of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for the manufacture of a medicament for selectively inhibiting the reuptake of serotonin and norepinephrine.

10 28. The use of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder associated with serotonin and norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals.

15 29. The use as claimed in claim 28, wherein the disorder is selected from depression, OCD, anxiety, memory loss, urinary incontinence, conduct disorders, ADHD, obesity, alcoholism, smoking cessation, hot flushes/flushes and pain.

20 30. The use as claimed in claim 29, wherein the disorder is selected from depression, urinary incontinence and pain.

31. The use as claimed in any one of claims 28-30, wherein the disorder is pain.

25 32. A method for selectively inhibiting the reuptake of serotonin and norepinephrine in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21.

30 33. A method for treating disorders associated with serotonin and norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in any one of claims 1-21.

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34. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the disorder is selected from depression, OCD, anxiety, memory loss, urinary incontinence, conduct disorders, ADHD, obesity, alcoholism, smoking cessation, hot flushes/flushes and pain.

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35. A method as claimed in claim 33 or 34, wherein the disorder is pain.